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Comment on the original Article: "The Hybrid structure of psychiatry"

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In this article, the authors revisit Berrios' work, in particular, his view of psychiatry and its objects as hybrids (i.e., derived from heterogeneous sources; or composed from different/incongruent elements)

In our view, there is one issue introduced by the authors that could give rise to a misinterpretation regarding the history of the development of descriptive psychopathology and semiology in psychiatry. In the article, the authors say that:

> "when such mental states and behaviors were brought under the umbrella of medicine at the beginning of the 19th century, psychiatry adopted the clinical anatomical model in order to understand research and manage patients (Berrios, 2008). This meant that, after being identified as such, the disturbed behaviors/mental states then viewed as mental disorders or madness were conceived as diseases and psychiatrists sought to identify signs and symptoms, akin to those in medicine, which would help to locate the associated pathology in the body" (Marková and Chen, 2020, p.37)

With these statements, one can understand that the development of descriptive psychopathology and psychiatric semiology is mainly associated with the tendency of the new psychiatrists, at the end of the 19th century (beginning of the 20th century), to try to find organic causes for psychiatric symptoms and disorders (according to the new medical model).

However, the birth of medical and psychiatric semiology is much earlier and diverse. Although there are reports of the systematization of signs and symptoms based on a perspicacious observation and intentional inquiry in the Hippocratic doctors, it was at the end of the 17th century that authors like Sydenham began to enrich this technique in medicine (Foucault, 1966). At this stage, the signs and symptoms were not directly linked to organ damage/dysfunction. Only later, with Virchow, semiology was linked to injury (the sign-injury-organ link was created) (Lanteri-Laura, 1994).

The first alienists (namely, Esquirol), at the beginning of the 19th century, used semiology for several reasons, among them, to fill the need for descriptive tools for the use by new asylum officers and to support psychological theories that could benefit from more rigorous and stable descriptions (Berrios 1984,1996).

At the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century, psychiatric symptoms, as well as psychiatric disorders (of the new nosological classifications), tried to adopt Virchow's model through which symptom signs were linked to injury. Thus, descriptive psychopathology and psychiatric nosology followed a different course from here than semiology in medicine, maintaining itself concerning the symptom-signal-injury connection, in a "Sydenham-state" (Altable, 2012). However, although significant efforts and resources had been invested in search of such injury, this model still does not fulfill psychiatry needs (Fulford et al, 2003). They might be reached by the addition of new layers

in the nosological construct (as social values), and a better understanding of to which extent psychiatric symptoms and disorders are both reflexes of organic/cerebral lesions, social rules, and their interactions (Berganza, 2005).

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